--- 6 Cigarettes - “Series of 1897” - 22 x 28 mm. - scanned at 200% scale ---

--- recess printed in BLACK ink - with smooth yellow gum ---

In 1897 the “American Bank Note Company” regained the contract to print Canadian revenue and tax paid stamps, and as a condition opened a plant in Ottawa. At the bottom these stamps exhibit the 19 mm. imprint [AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. OTTAWA]

★**RC-128** - 6 cigarettes, perf 12

★**RC-128 CRP** - 6 cigarettes, perf 12, stamped **Registered** and **CANCELLED**

★**RC-128 DP** - 6 cigarettes, die proof on white proof paper

★**RC-128 SP** - 6 cigarettes, perf 12, stamped ***Sample*** in script

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The early Imperial cancellations occur in three lines of red ink as [**6-17 / CIGARETTES / 12 1909**]. It is pure speculation on my part, but since these cancellations occur in both the upright and inverted position, it is possible that the *upright* orientation represents the first half, and the *inverted* orientation the latter half of the month, which roughly corresponds to the earlier *Semi-Monthly Return* category - and at least would here be a quality control indicator for the company’s use, even if it had no fiscal significance.

--- 6 Cigarettes - "Series of 1897" - 22 x 28 mm. - scanned at 200% scale ---

--- recess printed in BLACK ink - the SPECIMEN with smooth yellow gum ---

★**RC-128 SP** - 6 cigarettes, perf 12, stamped SPECIMEN in 4 mm. Gothic

★**RC-130** - 6 cigarettes, imperf, with an unreadable cancellation

★**RC-128 DP** - 6 Cigarettes, the die proof - [CANADA-F-69], printed on light cardboard

Manufacturers producing tobacco products purely from *domestic* tobacco, thus using ***green*** *stamps*, had to establish a plant totally separated from any bulk *foreign* tobacco. As a result in the beginning there were not many factories which could qualify to use ***green*** stamps - probably only very small companies, or very large companies with deep pockets. By 1914 excise duty applied to all tobacco products, whether made from domestic or foreign tobacco, and the green and red stamps were discontinued. The ***red*** stamps were being used from 1897 to 1914 for cigarettes made by blending domestic and foreign tobacco - and thus ***red*** no longer designated a warehoused product.

--- the “Imperial Tobacco” cancellation collection - 20 copies to date ---

[★RC-128]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1909	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	12
1910	---	---	3	---	---	6	7	---	---	---	---	---
1911	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1912	---	---	---	4	---	---	7	8	9	---	11	---
1913	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	8	---	---	---	---
1914	---	---	---	---	---	6	7	---	---	---	---	---
1915	1	---	3	---	5	---	7	8	---	---	---	---
1916	1	2	---	4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1897 \ black \ 6 cigarettes],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
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December 9th 2013, JBH